

movie JOURNAL

by Jonas Mekas

The summer is coming to an end. This morning at 9, I walked into the street, and I found Gregory Corso standing on the sidewalk, looking into the street. He said he came back from Greece late last night. And there he is, at 9 in the morning, standing in the street. He still thinks he's in Greece! But the construction workers are breaking up the street, and it all looks like happy death.

Anyway, the summer is coming to an end and everybody's coming back. Last night, at the John and Yoko concert, I bumped into Allen (Ginsberg, of course). He just came back from India-Alaska. Said he just handed a thick book of new poems to City Lights. John was great, and so was Yoko. Of course, John is an old pro, and my praise is worth a penny. But Yoko is still new, and I think she is the most interesting and most original new voice in music, no matter what Klein or anybody says. By the way, the audience dug Yoko's singing.

But let's go back to movies! The only thing is that there is not much to see yet. The season is not open, as they say. George Landow just called. He is somewhere in California. Says he is in the process of making a "very long" autobiographical film. Of course, you must know, he considers "Institutional Quality" and "Remedial Reading Comprehension" as the first two chapters of his autobiography. Michael Snow is somewhere in Canada. A letter says, "I've been thinking about and making plans for a probably hour long film which I'm describing as a 'comedy.' Perhaps it will be funny. It will have words and people . . ."

Two postcards from Peter Kubelka. Both with reproductions from Montova. Says, "Working on the old world is Peter." What it means, he is working on his film "Monument for the Old World." A letter from Leni Riefenstahl. She is editing a film she shot in Kenya. A letter from Gerard Malanga, from Rehovot, Israel—letter written in ink, which got wet on its way and got all washed out, only the location is readable.

A note from Warren Sonbert, from San Francisco. He says, he's "putting together bits & snaps of outtakes to take some separate film pieces apart from the larger full-scale work—sort of exercises too. Shot some more on Northwest Pacific trip up to Vancouver . . ."

scratch gags in tawdry speed modulations . . . 'for Duchamp' i believe . . . no one likes it except Lynda benglis & frans), 8 mins of upward inflection, is the only film-by-a-filmmaker included along with the films-by-'artists' at 'documenta' (which was Quite a carnival!). most everyone regards it as humorless, emotionless, uninspired . . . just like cezanne's portrait of his wife . . ."

A letter from Bruce Conner. Says I didn't pay him rentals for the screening of his film "Leader" in 1966 at the Cinematheque, wants his dough. Says: "Payment Due: \$25." Andrew Noren just came back from Barrington, Massachusetts, with Green River footage, trees.

I spent two days at the International Film Seminars (formerly Flaherty Seminar), the first year without Frances Flaherty, who, in case you do not know, died this spring. Marcel Ophuls showed his new film, "A Sense of Loss," he shot in Ireland, full of Irishmen, of course.

What else? I know that Stan (Brakhage) has at least two new films. Robert Nelson has a new

film. Kenneth Anger again had to interrupt the shooting of his film in London, but he'll pull through, as he always does. A postcard with a beautiful green picture of the Alps, from Gregory Markopoulos, from Switzerland. It says: "I am here working on my 13th film since being in Europe. The editing is already completed under great pressures. It may be called 'The Golden Thistle,' but I'm not certain."

And so it goes. See you at the Whitney or Millennium or Film Forum or Cineprobe or The Kitchen or Anthology—soon. Talking about the Kitchen: Thursday, September 14, through September 30, the Women's Video Festival will take place. Among those participating are Ann Arlen, Joie Davidov, Shigeko Kubota, Susan Milano, Queer Blue Light Video, Elsa Tambellini, Steina Vasulka, and Women's Video News. In case you don't know, the Kitchen is at 240 Mercer Street. For information about the festival call 673-3457 or 924-9443.